

Assembly of States Parties

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The Hague
14-22 November 2008

Interim report of the focal point on the review of the Rome Statute

Addendum

The focal point on the review of the Rome Statute submits to the Assembly copy of a communication, dated 11 November 2008, from the Solicitor General of Uganda.

Annex

No. ADM/70/269/01

Ambassador Rolf Fife
Coordinator for the Review Conference Working Group
Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the
International Criminal Court
New York
United States of America

Dear Ambassador Fife,

RE: UGANDA' S OFFER TO HOST THE REVIEW CONFERENCE IN 2010

Reference is made to the two presentations made by Hon. (Dr) E. Khiddu Makubuya, the Attorney General and Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affaires of the Republic of Uganda during the 6th Assembly of States Parties (ASP) in New York. In both presentations, the Hon. Attorney General/Minister made it known to the ASP that the Government of Uganda intended to have the honor of hosting the Review Conference in 2010. He demonstrated, through a power-point presentation, that Uganda has beautiful and more than adequate facilities for the conference to be held in Kampala.

In May this year, you headed a fact-finding team which came to Kampala to assess Uganda's suitability and readiness to host such an important event. The team subsequently made a report which indicated that Uganda was able, capable and ready to host the conference. We are very thankful for that.

You will recall that during the visit referred to above, you and your team were made to understand that, being a situation country and being at the center of the Great Lakes Region where the Court is most active, Uganda is most suited to host such a conference.

Further, your team was briefed on the security aspects and you were impressed.

In the resumed session (June 2008), the ASP expressed its satisfaction with the report and requested Uganda to further demonstrate its commitment to the Rome Statute by reporting on the progress being made on the implementing legislation and ratification of the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (APIC).

I am please to report that there have been discussions between the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Chairperson of the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee and the Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs. During these discussions, the two officials were made to appreciate the need to urgently consider the Draft International Criminal Court bill. The two officials have assured the Ministry that discussions with stakeholders on the Bill will commence any time, beginning with Uganda Law Society. The Ministry has been assured that the Bill will expeditiously be tabled before the plenary for enactment as soon as discussions with the stakeholders are completed, thus ensuring that Uganda fulfils the promises it has made to the ASP. We trust that the matter is being accorded the urgency it deserves.

I am also glad to report that the ratification of APIC was approved by Cabinet on 5th November 2008 and the instruments of ratification are being prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will be deposited in New York as soon as possible.

Uganda's offer to host the conference is as firm as ever and we look forward to a positive decision being finally made by the ASP to approve this offer, paving way for further discussions on the logistical details.

Yours faithfully,

signed

J B R Suuza (Review Conference Focal Point)

FOR: SOLICITOR GENERAL

c.c. Hon. Attorney General /Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
c.c. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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